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Court, based on the Sherley Amendment, may be mentioned: Dr. Williams Pink Pills, Eckman's Alterative, Nuxcara, Oxidase Tablets, Dr. J. H. McLean's Liver and Kidney Balm, Cummings Blood Remedy, Urol, The Great Magic Condition Powders, Dr. W. H. Baker's Tuberculous Remedy, Payne's Sylax, Hite's Pain Remedy and Cough Syrup, White Pine Expectorant and White Pine Balsam, Dr. Bell's Pine Tar Honey, Clay's Sure Cure, Lung Germine and hundreds of others that might be mentioned.

The Kansas State Drug Laboratory has examined and reported to the State Board of Health, during the past decade, 6,000 drugs, official medicinal and proprietary preparations, oils, coffee and spices. It has done coöperative work for the American Association of Agricultural Chemists on opium preparations, pepsin, coffee, spices and insecticides. It has done research work on various tests and quantitative methods. It has been called upon by residents of the state, and to some extent other states, for assistance on chemical, pharmaceutical and toxicological problems. To illustrate, the Laboratory has on hand for investigation, besides eight official samples, one sample of a so-called raticide that a citizen of the state suspects not to be as claimed by the manufacturer; a prescription to examine for harmful drugs; a sample of crude petroleum for general analysis and a sample of candy for presence of poison.

The effectiveness of the food and drugs law administration is evident from the fact that many abuses occurring in the food and drugs industries during the first few years of its existence have ceased. This has been noticeable in both Federal and state inspection work. A decade ago the drug stores of the state of Kansas, as shown by the specimens of drugs sent in to the drug laboratory for analysis, were in a rather deplorable condition. To-day our drug stores rank among the best. While misbranding and adulteration probably will never wholly cease (carelessness and dishonesty will always be with us), the never ceasing vigilance of government inspection will prevent drifting back to former conditions.

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### A Plague of Cholera Infantum at Nett Lake, Minnesota, in the Fall of 1913.

ALBERT B. REAGAN.

Nett Lake, Minnesota, a shallow body of water, is a wild rice field in summer. In the early summer of 1913 it was at its normal level, and the rice rose above the water like a great oat field, and waved to and fro in the breeze till it had bloomed and begun to mature. Then there were exceeding heavy rains and the lake filled till the rice was entirely submerged and staid so several days. The water in the lake then returned to its normal level. Then as soon as the rice was matured the Indians returned from their picking berries in the surrounding neighborhoods and went to gathering rice. In this they rowed through the rice fields and pounded the rice off of the stalks into their canoes with clubs by a beating process as they rowed about here and there. When the canoe

was filled with the rice, which looks very much like bearded barley, they rowed to the shore and the rice was scorched in large caldron kettles which were placed over a hot fire as the rice was continually stirred with a paddle to keep it from burning. This scorching was done to get the husk off of the kernel. When scorched enough, the product was dumped into a sunken, cemented, tub-shaped place in the yard and tramped by a barefooted Indian to further remove the husks from the grain; the Indian washed his feet after the tramping was completed. The grain was then winnowed, after which it was washed. As soon as the first canoe loads were cleaned the rice was cooked, much as we cook oatmeal, and all sat down to a feast. The next day many were sick with a dysentery, and within a week 23 of the children under two years of age had died of cholera infantum. After the gathering of the first rice there came a heavy dashing rain, after which there were no more deaths of the fatal disease.

We had no government doctor at that time, the position being vacant on account of resignation. Consequently, as Indian agent, I wired the Indian office at Washington for medical aid. I also wired to Virginia, Minn., for a local physician to come at once, also to the state board of health at St. Paul to send us what assistance they could. But the fates were against us. The weather turned stormy, and Pelican Lake, which lay between us and the railroad, became so rough that it could not be crossed till the disease had worn itself out. Then we had doctors galore. Besides the local doctors the government sent two of its ablest physicians, and two state doctors came from St. Paul. No one was sick when any of them arrived. They had no case to diagnose, but proceeded at once to lay the disease to Colon Bacillæ in the well water.

We had five wells in the village. I had the water of each of these wells analyzed by the state board of health and Colon Bacillæ were found in but one of these wells, and that was in a well that had never been used by any one. The water of the well we all used was potable in every sense of the word. Moreover, some of the Indians did not use water from any well, but from the lake direct, and the children of these died of the disease the same as of those who used the well water. I maintained at the time that the rice caused the disease and still do so. I believe that a mold or fungus growth of some kind formed on the rice as a result of its being submerged and that all the rice gathered before its being washed clean by the terrific rainstorm aforementioned, was poisonous to the human system, and produced death to the infants and weaklings of the race, the same as the mold on the grass of the plains killed the horses off, I believe, the same year. As all the conditions remained the same, except that the rice in the field was drenched and thoroughly washed by a furious storm and immediately following the storm the ravages of the disease ceased, it is my candid opinion that the cholera infantum was caused by the diseased rice, or the toxic principle caused by same, and not by any contamination of the water.